

Opening Night

"Cotton Patch Gospel" premieres on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Story on page 8

Ghost Tracker

Historical monument rumored to be one of the most haunted places in East Texas.

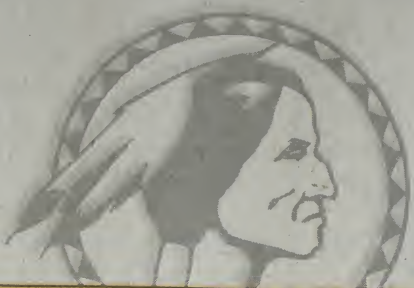
Story on page 14

Signing Day

Apache football signs multiple players to four-year colleges.

Story on page 5

The Apache



Pow Wow

SINCE 1927

VOL. 74 NO. 2 | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009 | WWW.TJCNEWSPAPER.COM

WEB extras



File Photo

OSCAR NIGHT APPROACHING

There really is no backlash when it comes to "Slumdog Millionaire," the best bet to take home the best picture Academy Award next Sunday. It's all front lash with this one. By design it offers something for everybody. It does everything for you but shine your shoes. For the rest of the story go to tjcnews-paper.com.



Photo by Joyce Marshall/MCT

FIERCE COMPETITION

People seeking new skills in a slow economy and a near record number of high school seniors are expected to make the competition fierce for coveted spots in U.S. colleges and universities in the fall. Applications to elite private schools are expected to continue climbing. But university officials suspect that state schools in particular could see a spike in interest as some cash-strapped families look for tuition breaks.

WEB extras TJCnewspaper.com

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TJC focuses efforts on Achieving The Dream

By Madison Payne
Managing Editor

Texas, along with many other states, has a problem with students enrolling and succeeding into higher education.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 1960s, one in five college students dropped out before receiving their degree. In 2000, the dropout rate rose to every one in three students.

Achieving The Dream is a program that is trying to help students complete developmental courses and move successfully into college-level courses. The Achieving The Dream grant will supply approximately \$450,000 in order to help colleges plan and implement student success strategies.

According to achievingthedream.com, 83 colleges and 15 states are making Achieving the Dream a program at their school.

— see DREAM page 9 —

College applications to four-year schools due

By Shela Burgess
Copy Editor

Transfer students at two-year schools across Texas are scrambling for recommendations, pulling together applications and essays, and ripping out their hair in the process.

Many students who come to TJC enter University Studies to earn credits specifically to move to a larger, four-year school. But for many students, how to transfer is a mystery.

"It's really a joint effort between what we do and an upper-level university," Jan Adams, Director, Academic Advising for TJC, said. "We advise students with a suggested degree plan."

Adams stressed the importance of contacting upper-level universities to see what they require as soon as possible.

"If a certain university is requiring things then it's them you need

— see APPLICATION page 9 —



Ready or Not?



Photos by Dennis Gonsoulin and Ashley Summers

NATURE'S EFFECT: Top, a truck is seen straddling what was once a fishing pier. Above, a shop on the strand counts down the days until it is ready to re-open.

Galveston expects thousands to return for spring break

Sidni Kirby
Online Editor

With only five months since Hurricane Ike tore through the popular vacation spot, leaving over \$11 billion dollars in damage, Galveston now only has a few weeks until the spring break season starts.

With spring break approaching quickly, many students have the possible destinations on their minds. Galveston Island is typically a popular spring break destination with an estimated 10,000 visitors during the season.

"I do not want to go to a place that is not safe," Amber Holey, TJC student, said. "I am a little wary about going to a place that was underwater five months ago."

Holey's concern about the safety of the island is a real one. Because the storm was just a few months ago, the possibility of all the small things being cleaned off the beach is a small chance. Even if

there are no planks of wood or chunks of concrete on the beach, that does not mean that smaller items such as nails, splinters, and iron rods are not still buried in the sand, waiting for an unsuspecting person to stumble upon it.

"Right now there is glass and trash in and on top of the sand... I was running on the beach and stepped on something blunt that bruised the bottom of my foot," Lauren Smith, Texas A&M Galveston student, said.

The task to clean up the damaged city has been a mammoth project.

"The city has taken great measures to pick up debris and to repair the beaches," RoShelle Gaskins, public relations manager with Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, said.

But the damage was not isolated to

— see GALVESTON page 13 —

Parking problems for students on campus

By Whitney Green
Staff Writer

TJC has an increasing amount of students in a hurry to get to class, while trying to find a convenient place to park.

Last fall, approximately 9,928 students were enrolled at TJC, according to a number provided by TJC officials. The number of parking spaces provided by TJC Maintenance shows that just on the main campus there are a total of 2,465 student spaces and a total of 592 faculty spaces.

Campus Safety said that 90 percent of tickets written are to students who park in faculty lots.

"There are enough lots available, but students choose to find closer ones," Chief Randy Melton, director of campus safety, said.

According to the Parking regulations, those fines can begin to add up after a period of time.

"Parking fines begin at \$25, except parking in a handicapped space without proper permit, which is a violation of state law and

STUDENT PARKING

Number of student lots:

There are 21 total student parking lots on the TJC Main and West Campus.

Number of student parking spots:

There are 2,813 parking spots which includes 54 handicapped spots.

Number of students enrolled:

There are approximately 9,928 students enrolled at TJC.

Source: TJC Maintenance

the fine is \$50."

"Campus Safety averages about 75 parking tickets per week," Campus Safety Secretary Vivian Altbrandt, said. "If issued a ticket, students can choose to appeal to a committee. If a ticket goes unpaid and has overdue fines, that student's account may be put on hold, and the account must be paid in full to re-enter TJC or to attend future semesters on campus. To pay fines, students must go to the Cashier's Office."

Bill King, director of the physical plant believes that the parking on campus is adequate to meet student needs.

"Last fall, we had 10,000 students and one parking lot was never utilized," said King. This lot is located behind the JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center and has a total number of 112 spaces.

Melton stated that the congestion is much better around two weeks after school begins. Also, the spring semester is better due to more parking available that is in use by the band during the fall semester.

After 5 p.m. faculty lots become accessible to students, with the exception of the lot by Potter Hall and the one by Pirtle Technology. Students are never able to park in service or handicap spaces.

For students concerned about their safety, TJC provides a Courtesy Escort Service.

"We want to encourage students to contact Campus Safety," Melton said.

If anyone has concerns about parking or its violations, contact Campus Safety at 903-510-2222.

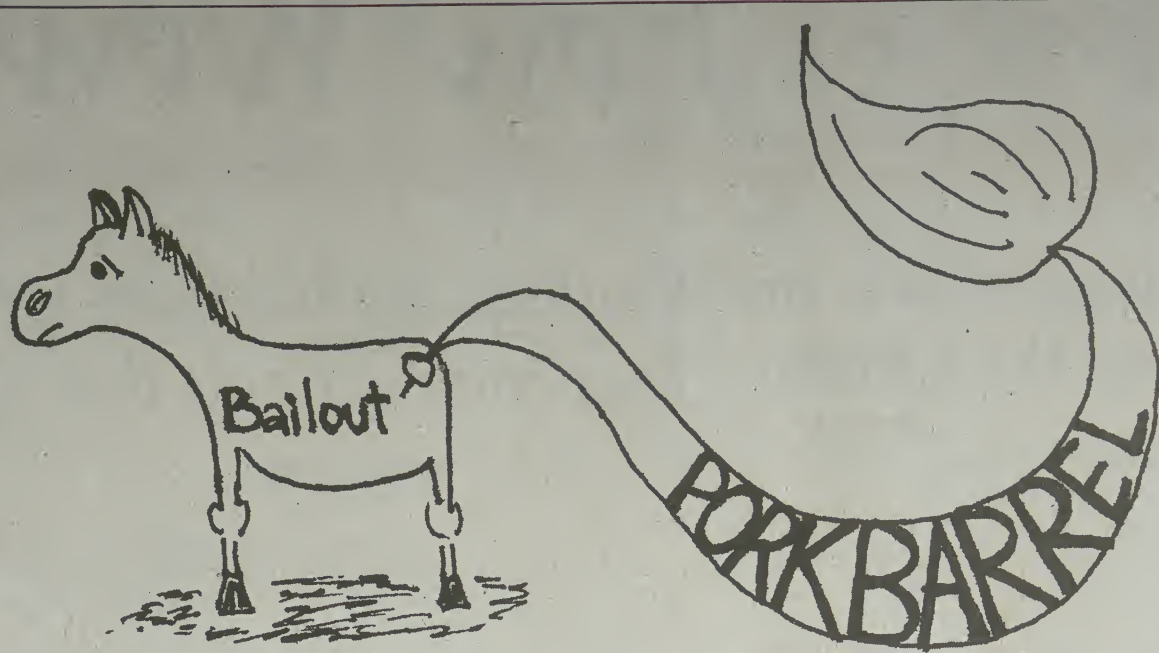
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Pin the bribe on the bailout...

Kamren Thompson

2 b or not 2 b?

Modern shorthand destroying barriers of English language

There was a serious flaw in the 2007 movie *Transformers*. I didn't care that giant, alien robots gained artificial intelligence or even that two teenagers worked along side the alien robots to help save the planet from the evil Decepticons, but it was just too much when Optimus Prime said, "We've learned Earth's languages through the World Wide Web."

I believe that if that were true, their conversations would have sounded much more like, "WTF Megatron? OMG did U C Bumblebee? BTW Optimus Prime is my BFF LOL."

As someone who learned to type not from the mandatory BCIS class, but from many hours chatting on AOL Instant Messenger, I am familiar with Internet lingo and the SMS "language."

SMS stands for short message service. It is basically the language of texting and instant messaging, but it has surpassed the barriers of instant messengers with the growing popularity of text messages, and made its way into speech.

It is clear that languages evolve over time, which is why we no longer speak formal Shakespearean English. However, should we allow our language to become even less formal?

The Collins English Dictionary recently added the word "meh," describing it as an expression of indifference or boredom. Its origins are unclear, but it became popular after being used by Bart and Lisa Simpson in a 2001 episode of "The Simpsons."

You may ask, "What's the harm in



KAMREN THOMPSON

adding words to the dictionary?"

Well, the catch is that "obsolete" words are deleted from the dictionary to make room for the new ones.

Every time a word is created, another is basically destroyed. Do we really want to sacrifice distinctive words, only to replace them with things like "Google" and "woot?"

Despite these reservations, it's clear that SMS isn't going anywhere. It has taken over communication, but I don't feel comfortable being a part of the generation that began the destruction of English as we know it.

SMS does speed up the process of communication, but is that always a good thing? Does anyone really ever feel loved when reading "<3 U," as opposed to the also short, yet significantly more sincere, "I love you." Does it really take that much more effort?

Another problem with this contemporary shorthand is that it has spread into the spoken language.

Everyone is familiar with Cingular's advertising campaign, "IDK my BFF Jill," and while this was supposed to be a clever parody, these acronyms

Texts and calls

Average monthly phone usage in the U.S.:

Average monthly texts

By age

12 & younger	428
13-17	1,742
18-24	790
25-34	331
35-44	236
45-54	128
55-64	38
65 and older	14

Source: The Nielsen Co.
Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2008 MCT

are becoming a part of everyday spoken language.

Teachers all over the world have been concerned with children's inability to differentiate between SMS language and proper language. Eventually, the line that separates the two will disappear. Words will begin to lose letters until we communicate with mainly two and three letter words.

Using SMS to communicate through text messages is not necessarily destructive, but to be able to effectively, let alone, beautifully communicate in a wider range than a cell phone, it is necessary to learn more than these simple, minimalist terms.

Chatting with friends is one thing, but communicating thoughts and ideas to the world deserves proper language.

HAVE SOME- THING TO SAY?

Send a letter to the editor at
tjcnews@tjc.edu

editorial

Big girls don't cry

Youth sports losing purpose and values when society over rewards

Today's youth is quickly becoming known as the Kleenex generation. Their tears are wiped away. Their hands are sanitized, and feelings are protected tighter than Oprah's personal phone number.

But has anyone asked why? Why is it all of a sudden unacceptable to allow a child to be upset, to be chosen last, to cry? It may be because there are still adults out there with no common sense.

Last month, Dallas Academy, a Christian high school populated by about 20 students, got blown out against Covenant High School in a basketball contest. Happens all the time, right? Wrong.

Covenant piled it on 100-0 by shooting second-half, three-point-shots, using a full-court press and taking fast-break points to a new level in girls high school basketball, all while the Covenant team already owned a lead over 50 points. The Covenant coach was fired 10 days after the win for not apologizing.

The sad thing is this is not the first time competition and sportsmanship was violated in a national spotlight.

John Heisman, a legendary figure in college football, once coached the Georgia Tech Bulldogs to a 222-0 win against Cumberland College. But did he get fired? Nope. Instead he was honored with a trophy in his name. Ever heard of it?

WNBA pioneer and icon, Lisa Leslie, once scored 101 points in the first half of a game previous of her professional days.

Before the start of the second half, the opposing coach forfeited. Was she disciplined? Not exactly. Instead she was offered a spot on the Olympic team and money to play on the L.A.



Photo courtesy of Brandon Thibodeaux/Dallas Morning News/MCT

GOLD STAR To keep the focus on fun and physical activity, Dr. Trent Petrie (center) doesn't check the score when his children, Kyla (left) and Braeden, play.

Sparks.

Because of incidents like this, youth sports have transformed into more or less therapy sessions than competition.

Wheatland Athletic Association in Illinois posted this statement on its Website regarding little league soccer on Oct. 11:

"Spectators can clap at goals... but nothing else! Coaches, you can coach your team at halftime

and for subbing players but that's it! No coaching, yelling or talking from the coaches' sideline. It has been found that kids are often confused by or simply ignore sideline input during games and that excessive yelling from sidelines can create unpleasant situations for all involved."

No cheering? No coaching? The next thing to be eliminated could be winners and losers and then who knows? Kicking the ball might be

outlawed because it promotes violence, the overweight players will be allowed to ride around in power chairs and halftime will include a Disney movie and a nap.

The fact is, today's young athletes are pampered and overly protected from the real world where uniform numbers are more important than what position they play.

What happens when these kids get to high school and then don't make the team?

They could join the drama club, but even then, they might not get the part in the Nutcracker that they wanted.

This is not a new phenomenon. In 1999 Barbie's waistline was expanded and her breasts were molded down. Mattel claimed the alterations reflected a change in fashion, not principle or morals. We all believe that.

Just because one coach in Dallas has no respect for the spirit of competition does not mean that everyone is out to humiliate little Johnny or Becky. The opposite seems to be true.

Regulations designed to protect participants from everything from natural disasters to physical abuse, or racial and even gender discrimination, are constantly updated and implemented.

Learning to win is not a bad thing and learning to lose is just as important. The world is filled with opportunities to do both, but if a child is constantly told that they are already good enough, then why would they better themselves? Nobody would when they've got enough sixth place trophies to fill a minivan.

Improving character, developing mental toughness and building teamwork are what sports are about—no matter what level.

Students to conduct service project in Costa Rica in May

Lea Rittenhouse
Staff Writer

TJC plans to take a group of 15 students to reach out to the people of Costa Rica in May 2009. They will travel to a village in Costa Rica called Los Lilas, and the students will be completing a service project for a school there.

Michael Metke, the president of TJC, was in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica from 1966 to 1968. While Metke lived there, he helped build the Escuela Los Lilas in 1967, which is the same school where the students do their service project.

"The school we established is still in a poor area, and it needs some attention," he said.

During the trip, the team will be doing some minor repairs on the school, but the main project is to turn a closet in the school into a library.

"One of the needs they have, is they don't have a place to store books and materials," Metke said.

The students will be catering to this need by reconditioning the space designated to be the library, by painting and putting up shelves.

"I think the little project that we do there will certainly help, but I think that the students involved will get a lot more," Metke said.

John Hays, the department chair of Foreign Languages, is also a key leader in the trip and agrees that the students will gain much more than they will give.

"It will be a project of great exchange. We will give a little and take back so much more," Hays said. "We go away, come back and appreciate a little more of what we have."

Nicholas Meyers is a current student at TJC who plans to travel to Costa Rica. He is very excited to travel and see the country's biodiversity, but he is also happy to do the service project.

"After we leave, what we have done will still be there," Meyers said.

The service project fulfills one of TJC's three promises: community service. Hays talked about the trip as a way, not only to reach out to the local community, but the global community as well.

The team will be taking items such as books, school supplies and children's clothes to give to Los Lilas.

The organizers of the trip feel that the service project is perfect for students.

"What better fit than a library, because typically the library is the center of learning in a college," Metke said.

UT-Tyler, along with TJC, will also be contributing to the town of Los Lilas by donating uniforms for the local soccer team.

Rodney Mabry, the President of UT-Tyler, will be joining the group traveling to Costa Rica, and is visiting the country ahead of time with Metke to prepare for the trip.

This will be the first time for TJC students to travel to Costa Rica. According to Metke, TJC is hoping to make this trip an annual excursion so that students can experience other cultures.

Students attending the trip will also get to experience the famous Monteverde Cloud Forest, and see the Arenal Volcano National Park. They will also get to visit a beach on the coast of Costa Rica and possibly scuba dive.

According to Hays, the trip does not include college credit, but organizers hope to create a hub for education in Costa Rica for possible credit opportunity in the future.

stateSCENE

Evaluating effects



Courtesy photos

GAUGING THE FUTURE TJC students and faculty traveled to Austin along with many other junior and community college students on Feb. 4 to attend Texas Community College Day and discuss the future of community colleges and the impacts the economy has had on enrollment.



Future of school textbooks moving closer to cyberspace

By Mara Rose Williams
McClatchy Newspapers

Northwest Missouri State University students started spring semester classes Monday, but many aren't lugging thick textbooks around.

Instead, most students are carrying a lightweight electronic device that can fit in a coat pocket and hold the textbook material for all their classes.

Some students will download their text information onto their laptops.

At Northwest, textbooks, at least the bound kind, are fast becoming a thing of the past.

Besides taking a load off students' backs, going textbook-free can save them a lot of money.

The pilot electronic textbook program began in the fall with four classes and about 200 students. This spring, roughly 4,000 of the school's 6,500 students will use electronic textbooks.

"I think that it's the way the world is going," Dean L. Hubbard, Northwest's president, said.

Textbook publishers say many colleges are moving toward using some electronic textbooks, but Northwest's plan to eventually eliminate all bound textbooks makes it a leader in the movement.

"Right now, digital products account for a small percent of our higher education business, but it is

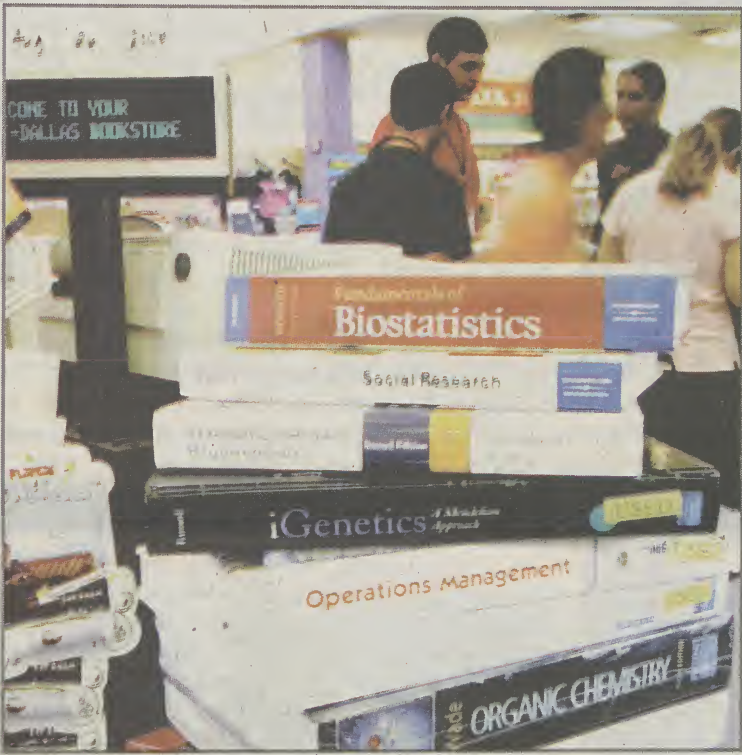


Photo courtesy of Natalie Caudill/Dallas Morning News/MCT

POSSIBLE SOLUTION Textbooks are seen at the University of Texas at Dallas bookstore in August 2006. Costs for books have soared, the College Board says, but electronic textbooks could solve for the costs.

growing at a rate that is breathtaking," Jeffrey Ho, a product manager for McGraw-Hill Education, said.

But Northwest can only move toward a bookless campus as fast as the availability of e-books allows, Hubbard said.

"Publishers don't have all textbooks online yet," he said. "But I would think as a realistic measure

we could be totally out of the printed textbook business in three years."

That idea pleases sophomore Mike Jenkins.

"I think the whole concept is pretty cool," said Jenkins, 19, of Lee's Summit, Mo. Jenkins used e-books in his history class during the fall.

"I would like it if we didn't have textbooks at all anymore," he said.

"You wouldn't have the hassle of messing with books. The e-book is so convenient, and you don't have to carry all those books around."

Plus, unlike printed textbooks, e-books have pop-up interactive quizzes and the ability to search the full text within seconds for key words. New electronic reader technology also will allow students to take notes in on-screen posted notes.

Jenkins found a few "minor" problems with the e-reader gadget that he and his classmates used.

"You can't look at a whole page on one screen, and it doesn't have a backlight to light up the screen, so you have to be somewhere that is well lit," he said.

Not all students were as comfortable with the electronic textbooks.

"I always worried that something would happen, like it would crash on the night I had to study for a test," said Jennifer Martin, a 22-year-old Northwest senior from Liberty, Mo.

"It's a good concept, but I didn't like it that much. I would rather flip pages back and forth in the textbook when I'm studying. Maybe it would be better to start this with freshmen who haven't yet gotten used to studying using a regular textbook."

Students who want a traditional textbook could still get one.

But the cost savings are hard to ignore, even at Northwest, a school that already is unique because of its

textbook rental system and its history of giving every student a laptop.

A textbook-free campus would save the university about \$400,000 a year. Currently the university spends about \$800,000 a year to keep an inventory of about 50,000 to 80,000 textbooks that are rented out to students. Northwest students pay about \$80 to \$90 a semester on books.

Northwest will continue to charge students just a rental fee. But once the e-book program goes campuswide, Hubbard said, Northwest students' book fee will be cut in half.

E-books are less expensive than bound books, which are updated every few years and then have to be repurchased by the school. E-books can be updated at no cost.

Even at schools without a rental system, students would pay far less for texts on e-books than they would for bound books.

Nationally, the cost of textbooks has soared in the last decade. The average college student spends nearly \$1,000 a year on textbooks, according to the National Association of College Stores.

(Distributed by MCT)

FOLLOW-UP

Next issue...

For an update of how electronic textbooks are effecting TJC specifically, check Issue 3 on March 6.

Flu strain breaks out, causes recent absences

Nikki Belle
Advertising Director

A lot of people have been missing school and work lately because of an outbreak of influenza.

Influenza, or the flu, is a viral infection spread through out the respiratory system.

It can happen in isolated, individual cases or have a major impact on the community.

"This type of infection spreads quickly," Victor Cameron, a doctor at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, said.

"Symptoms include fever, chills, muscle and joint pain, headache, sore throat, cough, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The symptoms come suddenly and spread quickly until they run their course, and generally last for up to 10 days."

Other illnesses can have the same symptoms and are often mistaken for influenza.

"Anyone can get the flu, but the rate of infection is the highest among children," Stephanie Eijnsink, a doctor at ETMC's First Physicians Clinic at TJC, said.

Because this is a virus, there are no antibiotics available to fight the infection. However, there is a vaccine offered

"This type of infection spreads quickly... The symptoms come suddenly and spread quickly until they run their course, and generally last for up to 10 days."

— Dr. Victor Cameron
Trinity Mother Frances Hospital

each fall that can help reduce the chance of catching the flu.

Thomas Watson, a freshman at TJC, just got over the flu.

"The worst part are the chills, headaches and fever," Watson said. "I would have rather had the flu shot than the flu."

Some people are apprehensive about getting vaccinated, because they believe it can cause the virus, but Eijnsink said that isn't true.

"No, it is a dead virus. You cannot get the flu from the vaccine," Eijnsink said.

Both doctors said they get their flu shot every year and recommend that students get them also.

"The vaccine is free to students and it takes about two weeks for the vaccine to build antibodies," Eijnsink said.

TJC has a clinic located on campus for students, where free flu shots are administered.

"There is no certain month where the

flu is at its highest, but the winter season is the worst period," Cameron said.

The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is in Rogers Student Center on the second floor.

There are a lot of precautions to take to help avoid germs, which may seem inconvenient but could prevent students from catching the flu.

"Use good hygiene. Wash your hands. Don't cough on others. Don't share utensils," Eijnsink said.

"If you catch the flu or think you have the flu, go see your doctor, or go to the ER," Cameron said. "Rest as much as possible until you start to feel better. Drink lots of fluids. Use aspirin for fever; and try to avoid others who have not already been exposed."

Both doctors urge students to take the flu seriously, because people who do not run the risk of severe illness or even death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

\$789 BILLION STIMULUS BILL APPROVED

House and Senate leaders finally approved the \$789 billion economic stimulus bill on Feb. 11. The bill is designed to increase spending and help with tax relief. It is also intended to spur an economic recovery effort and create jobs by putting money back in the pockets of consumers and companies.

TJC FORENSIC PLACES FIRST AT STATE MEET

The TJC Forensics team traveled to the Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association's State Championship Tournament which was hosted by TJC at Tarrant County Community College. The team took first place in sweepstakes in debate, first place in sweepstakes in individual events and first place in overall sweepstakes.

Vision Center: New services provided on both campuses

By Sean Boulger
Staff Writer

To raise awareness of the Vision Care Technology program, the vision care clinic has opened a new optical dispensary on the TJC Main Campus. It is located on the second floor of the Vaughn Learning Resource Center.

Apache Optical held an open house for the new shop on Feb. 9. During the event, they gave away door prizes and had a trunk show that displayed more than 1,000 designer frames and sunglasses.

The shop offers styles such as Varilux, Transitions and Thin & Lite. There were frame company representatives present, as well as vision care students who are enrolled in the TJC Vision Care Technology program who will run the shop under supervision of instructors as a part of their practicum.

"I believe the new shop is a great addition to TJC Main Campus and also a great benefit for TJC students," Pam McDougal, the staff coordinator of allied health and nursing, said.

The store holds glasses and new designer TJC sunglasses,

"The main reason for this new shop is to raise awareness..."

— Steve Robbins

Department Chair, Vision Care Technology Program

which were founded by student Brittany Magness. She says the shop and program are great and has already found work with a doctor.

But the new dispensary serves a greater purpose than just selling eyewear and helping students with their education.

"The main reason for this new shop is to raise awareness and increase interest in our vision care clinic and vision care technology program," Steve Robbins, department chair of the vision care technology program, said.

TJC still runs its West Campus Vision Care Clinic, but the new shop is designed to bring student's attention to the Vision Care Technology program that is offered at TJC.

After doing lecture work for their lessons, students enrolled in the program get to participate in hands-on learning with trained instructors.

"The program is great, and

I really enjoy it," Timoye Dews said, one of the vision care students who had been working at the dispensary, "I get really good field experience learning, as well as connections for a future in my career."

The Apache Optical East will be open 1-4 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday until April 15, and the Apache Optical West will be open 1-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday until April 16.

Eye exams are only given at West Campus located in the RTDC building, Room 138 and can be scheduled by calling 903-510-2020. TJC students only pay a reduced exam fee of \$55, which at regular cost is \$100.

TJC faculty and staff pay their \$30 BCDS co-pay for exams. An additional \$50 fitting fee is for contacts. Contacts can be ordered at Apache Optical East on main campus. Glasses start at \$35 and go up, and sunglasses are about \$20.



Photo by Sean Boulger

CRYSTAL CLEAR A student's eyes are examined at Apache Optical on the West Campus. Apache Optical West is the only TJC clinic that does eye exams.

Distance education courses might have learning downfalls

By Taylor Valentine
Advertising Director

Distance education could be a perfect fit for some students, but may be a frustration for others.

Some students may be visual, auditory or even tactile learners in the classroom, but what if there is not that one-on-one contact with the instructor or their classmates?

According to The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the 12-month 2000-2001 academic year, there were an estimated 3.077 million enrollments in all distance education courses offered by two- and four-year institutions.

"Most students with full-time jobs or who live in rural areas may not be able to afford a higher education, so taking online courses is another alternative for them, and it's cheaper,"

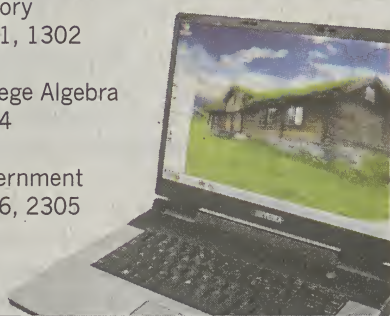
CLASS OPTIONS

Some of the available classes:

History
1301, 1302

College Algebra
1314

Government
2306, 2305



said Dr. Kevin Lemoine, director of academic affairs at THECB (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board).

Students who are self-disciplined and social may have an advantage over a student

who does not know how to cope physically and mentally with learning by themselves.

TJC has an assessment test called the READI that is offered on the WEB CT to evaluate students' aptitude and level readiness for the online courses.

It is a walkthrough of guidelines and questionnaires to help the student determine typing accuracy, learning styles and reading comprehension.

Even though students do not meet in class, that does not mean they don't exchange ideas.

"Most students gain a lot of social skills," Ken Craver, director of Distance Education said.

Interaction would be through e-mail or even live online chatting with other students enrolled in the course.

It is up to the student to become familiar

with the school and online program that she is going to take.

Even though students may not set foot in a classroom, there are still ways to interact with the instructor and classmates.

Another challenge in the online environment is "people tend to create emails using the language in which they speak and it eventually interferes with their online classes and documents," Craver said.

"Some people have that habit in writing how they talk and are not able to adjust that if they don't have the proper guidance and discipline from an instructor to coach them the appropriate way," Craver said.

Some of the classes available are History: 1301 and 1302, College Algebra, Government: 2306 and 2305 and many more.

For more information, please call Ken Craver at 903-510-2519.

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GET UP ON WHAT'S GOING DOWN

www.tjcnewspaper.com

TJC football scores an important win on signing day

By Aaron Boone
Sports Editor

On Feb. 4 hundreds of high school and college football players had exactly one thing in common: they all had to sign their names.

Feb. 4 was the first day those men, who have been scouted and recognized, signed a National Letter of Intent to play football for colleges around the country.

According to the NCAA, the NLI is a document signed by a potential recruit who is agreeing to attend that school for one academic year in exchange for financial aid.

Since the NCAA put the NLI in place, the group is responsible for enforcing its many rules.

For example, recruiting calls and all contact with a prospective student athlete must be complete once they sign an NLI. That means no text messages, no voice mails and no "visits" for any reason.

However, signees also have to watch their behavior once they sign an NLI. As soon as a student athlete has "inked" with a school, they must attend that academic institution for an entire year with no exceptions. Once an NLI is signed, that athlete is stuck with that institution for an entire year if they want to participate in NCAA sanctioned sports.

TJC Apache Football had 42 young men sign their name on the



Photo by Aaron Boone

THE SEASON MAY BE OVER but it's never too early to practice. Receivers, cornerbacks, quarterbacks and coaches are out on the practice field running routes trying to become accustomed to one another.

dotted line Feb. 4, many of them from East Texas.

There were 16 Mid-Year signees and 26 others who will join the team in 2009. Head Coach Danny Palmer was pleased with his new crop of talent.

"The depth of talent that we have been able to bring together from the East Texas area is much improved over

the previous years," Palmer said.

Football talent is never scarce in the East Texas area as made evident by the multiple state football championships won by Tyler Lee and John Tyler high schools alone.

These schools have produced outstanding football players like Lee's Matt Flynn, now a back-up quarterback for the Green Bay Packers, and

John Tyler's Aaron Ross, who starts at cornerback for the G-Men of the New York Giants.

Unlike previous years, Apache football will have some home-grown men on the roster in the 2009 season, seven signees are Tyler Lee graduates.

However it's not all about the Apache signees.

Nine players who called TJC

home and played football for the black and gold this past semester will all have new homes in the fall. Two TJC Apaches will join the Big 12 conference. Phillip Blake, an offensive lineman, signed with Baylor and Calvin Rubles, a cornerback, signed with the Kansas Jayhawks.

There will even be a TJC representative in the Pac-10 conference. Ryan Taylor, also an offensive lineman, signed with UCLA.

However, taking the step to the next level means working that much harder.

"I've been following this workout book that UCLA gave me, which requires a two and a half hour work out everyday," Taylor said. "It's not very easy."

It may not be easy, but that's what it takes to be the starting left guard at UCLA, and that's exactly what Ryan Taylor will be.

For Phillip Blake, it's not all about the physical preparation that he is sure to undergo at Baylor. It starts and ends for him in the classroom.

"The main thing I want to accomplish at Baylor is to get my degree. I want to be able to show my mom that I took care of business and got my degree," Blake said.

In the days and years to come, maybe TJC will have yet a fourth football standout playing in pro football's biggest and brightest spectacle, the Super Bowl.

Apache tennis gearing up for matches

By Griffin Blackburn
Asst. Sports Editor

Driving down Palmer Street it is hard to ignore the new JoeAnn Medlock Murphy tennis complex. The complex is the proud home to TJC's Men's and Women's Tennis Team who have a full season ahead of them.

"We look forward to every match, teams we are supposed to beat and teams we are not supposed to beat," Head Coach John Peterson said.

Coach Peterson views all the matches as a learning experience for the team. When it comes to Ouachita Baptist, a team comprised mostly of older European athletes that has defeated TJC Men's Tennis Team in 2007 and 2008, he sees it as a glimpse of Division I play for his team.

"It gives us credibility, prepares us for other teams, and shows our guys what it takes to play Division I," Peterson said.

This season TJC has eight sophomores on the men's roster who make up two thirds of the squad. Even with the

returning players their goals are still the same.

"Every player is still striving to get better. Because they are sophomores, they are familiar with the terminology and drills I use," Peterson said.

In play, it is easy to see each player's personality, but Coach Peterson insists no one player overshadows another.

"We do not have standouts. Nine of our guys are capable of beating each other any day of the week. We are a very balanced team," Peterson said.

Jon Hailey, the captain of the men's team, is also confident about the team's schedule.

"We have a good schedule, a lot of good matches at home. I'm looking forward to playing Laredo," Hailey said.

Although Hailey has confidence in his team, he is still conscious of the team from Ouachita Baptist.

"They are a good team. We did well against them, but they have new guys. So hopefully we can get the W, [win]" Hailey said.

Although the tennis team has a large trophy room with trophies and plaques from 1980 to last year, the attendance to their matches is less than stellar. This could be attributed to a tennis tradition of a quiet audience.

"Crowds are usually quiet, but regionals had a lot of soccer and volleyball players show up. So it was a little rowdier," Brianna Hopps, athletic trainer to the tennis team, said.

Home matches are an opportunity to catch the men and women's teams in action. The men's team does seem to get more attention.

"Guys get a bigger crowd because they lose their temper faster," Hopps said.

Even though tennis is not a contact sport, matches are still very aggressive. Each match can be considered a duel between two opponents forcing a ball towards the other at tremendous speeds.

"Tennis should cure itself of the quietness. It's nice to have to quiet the crowd than for no one to be there at all," Peterson said.

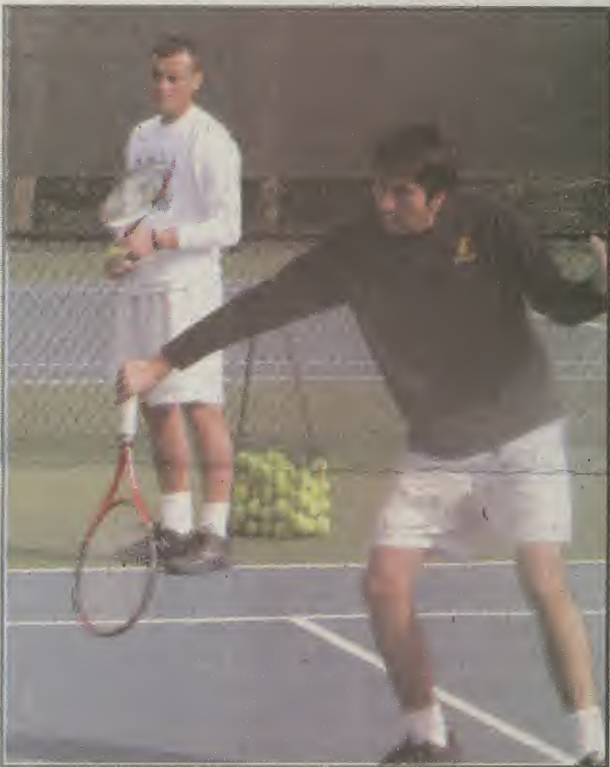


Photo by Griffin Blackburn

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT Members of the Apache Tennis Team practice in the new tennis complex.

SPORTS BRIEF

UP IN SMOKE



Photo by Joe Burbank/Orlando Sentinel/MCT

MICHAEL PHELPS reacts to guests in a homecoming parade at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World.

What happened:

Michael Phelps was photographed smoking a "water pipe," better known as a bong.

When and where:

According to the New York Post, Phelps was photographed at a house party on Nov. 6 in Columbia, S.C.

The fallout:

The most decorated Olympian of all-time has successfully damaged his reputation, lost Kellogg's as a sponsor, and could possibly lose others. He also has been banned by USA Swimming from competition for three full months.

Height not an obstacle for female basketball player

By Erica Smith
Staff Writer

Being 5 feet 2 inches tall in a sport generally recognized for its tall, lanky athletes isn't always easy, but ever since Kelly Stewart was 5 years old, she had a love for basketball. Stewart had to overcome a lot having a short stature. She has been told numerous times by taller people that she couldn't play.

"Now I run past the tall people," Stewart said.

People used to wonder how she would ever get to the basket to score.

"Now I drive into the big people and score," Stewart said.

Her teammate, Monica Spearman, labeled her as "a little person with big game."

Most of the time growing up, and even now, she continues to be told she is too short to play.

To her, that only adds fuel to the fire, making her tougher and faster than

STEWART'S FAVORITES

Pro Sports Team: Phoenix Suns

Pro Sports Athlete: Reggie Bush, Steve Nash

Source: Apache Athletics

most of her opponents.

"That girl is a scorer, and has never met a shot she didn't like," Trena Tillis-Jones, Women's Basketball Head Coach, said.

A lot of how she plays, and what she does comes from watching her dad when she was young.

"Watching my daddy play all the time when I was young made me want to play," Stewart said. "I used to watch him in our backyards and in the gyms with his friends. While he played, I played too. I used to be on the side doing everything he did. He's is my role model."

Being the scoring threat that she is, makes other players around the conference respect her and not want to guard the quick scoring hassle of a shooting guard.

Tragedy struck Stewart last year when her high school friend Shannon Veal died during a game.

"My good friend who wore number 25 died last year in a game," Stewart said.

"She had diabetes and died of an enlarged heart. She pushed herself and never gave up, when she died, that's when I changed my number to 25."

Stewart honors her good friend by wearing her number every game.

Stewart is in her second season at TJC after being recruited by the assistant coach and is majoring in general studies. She is beginning to get scouted by bigger schools and hopes to continue on to a D1 or D2 school to finish up

— see HEIGHT page 9 —

sportsCALENDAR

UPCOMING HOME TJC SPORTING EVENTS

Men's Baseball: Feb. 20

TJC vs. Cedar Valley @ 2 p.m. Mike Carter Field

Men's Hoops: Feb. 28

TJC vs. Angelina College @ 4 p.m.

Women's Hoops: Feb. 28

TJC vs. Angelina College @ 2 p.m.

Physically disabled find campus hard to easily access

By Satin Scott
Student Life Editor

There is no way for a person with a mobile disability to easily access the second floor of Potter Hall.

Walking through Potter Hall, there are no elevators in the building. There are stairs in the middle of the building and another set of stairs at the end of the building. Yet there are no elevators, escalators, or even wheel chair lifts.

"When I first came to TJC, my class was on the second floor, and I went two weeks without going to class," Felisa Young, a disabled TJC student, said.

According to the TJC's Faculty Handbook for Educational Accessibility for Students with Disability it states, "TJC is committed to providing students with disabilities equal access to its facilities, activities and programs. Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) require that public colleges and universities provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities."

It also states, "Colleges and universities are not required by either Section 504 or the ADA to lower their academic standards or substantially alter the essential ele-

"When I first came to TJC, my class was on the second floor, and I went two weeks without going to class."

— Felisa Young
TJC student

ments of their courses or programs to accommodate students with disabilities. The requirement for providing reasonable accommodations is designed to give an equal opportunity to students with disabilities. Accommodations, in and of themselves, are not a guarantee of success. It is the intent that the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be a shared responsibility among students, faculty, staff and the administration."

Margaret Rapp, ADA Coordinator, said Potter Hall, built in 1963, did not have to comply with the ADA regulations since it was built before the regulations came into place. Therefore, Potter Hall is exempt from having to incorporate accessibility to the second floor. According to Rapp, when there is a student who has a class on the second floor, the entire class will be moved to the first floor.

Inside The Vaughn Library there is a chair lift designed for students with a disability to access the second floor. However, some handicap students are uneasy

about the lift due to the lack of space & tedious operation system. The Vaughn Library, constructed in 1967, is also exempt from ADA regulations.

Susanne Moore, part-time library assistant, said that students with larger wheelchairs tend to have issues with the chair lift and that a student would have to go through series of steps just to access the chair lift.

"We really need a new chair lift system," said Susanne Moore, part-time librarian assistant.

"I took one look at the chair lift and said, 'I'll pass,'" Young said.

Vaughn Library has a central desk where students with a disability can get help with getting to the second floor.

"Whatever we lack inside the library we make up in service," said Marian D. Jackson, Library Director.

Young said that anytime she has a complaint, support services in Roger Student Center will fix it.

There is also a chair lift in Jenkins Hall for disabled students



Photos by Ryan Chris

HANDICAP ACCOMODATIONS
Above, the chair lift for disabled students in Vaughn Library is positioned on the bottom floor. Right, a handicap parking spot is clearly marked for disabled students.

to access the lower floors. However, Young said that it seems to never be on.

According to Jackson the new administration is aware of what needs to be done on campus. She said they even addressed her concerning ADA issues for the first time in 17 years.

Students who need to access support concerning their disability or needing ADA information can contact Support Services located on the second floor of Rogers Student Center.



Students given opportunity to travel abroad

By Teresa Ramirez
Staff Writer

For the 21st time, TJC is offering students and tourists the opportunity to travel to a country on the other side of the world during Spring Break 2009.

The trip will be to Western Turkey from March 6-15 and is open to everyone.

"We have people of all ages," Dr. Manoucher Khosrowshahi, otherwise known as "Dr.K," a TJC government instructor and project director of the trip, said. "We have a 14 and a 16-year-old who are traveling with us. This year, the oldest [participant] is like, 75."

Students have a chance to learn outside the classroom about different cultures and visit historical sites.

"It's a cool place to go," Clayton Tuhanogw, a Political Science major at TJC and a Turkey exchange student, said. "Different, very different. So if people want to experience something different, they should go."

Some of the services included in the land portion of the package are: round-trip transportation from Tyler to Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, transportation by a private bus with a driver throughout the tour, hotel and airport transfers in Turkey, accommodations in twin-bedded rooms with private bathrooms, all baggage handling for check-ins and check-outs in hotels and in airports, two meals a day- including continental breakfast, an English speaking tour guide and admissions fees to the sites. Airfare is not included.

"There will be a bus waiting for us in Turkey when we get to the airport to take us to the hotel. So once we're in the hotel, we are going to have our own private bus to take us to our sites," Dr. K. said.

According to Dr. K. in his seminar about the trip travelers see modern and tradition, new and old, European and Asian, urban and rural, all at the same time in Turkey. Participants will be traveling to a country that is rich in art, culture, history and archaeological sites.

"It's a very old country. There's a lot of history there," Marc Reimers, a Science and Nursing major and a scholarship recipient, said.

Travelers going on the Western Turkey trip will have a chance to visit Istanbul, Termessos, Hierapolis, Asosos, Bosphorus, Canakkale, Dardanelles, Ephesus, the Mediterranean Sea, Troy and other tourist sites.

"I'm looking forward to everything about the trip, because of Dr. K. The way that he has so meticulously planned every detail of this trip, I mean, it's an excellent trip," Timothy Smith II, a Mathematics major at TJC and a



Courtesy Photos

TURKEY TRIP Students, faculty and community members have been given the opportunity to travel abroad.



scholarship recipient, said. "One of the main things that I'm looking forward to doing is seeing the ruins of Troy."

By participating in the Spring Break trip to western Turkey, students have an opportunity to receive three hours of course credit for GOV-2389 at TJC or UNIV-4369 at UT-Tyler.

The trip to Turkey costs \$1,385 for the land portion plus airfare. Students will receive a \$150 reduction from the original price, bringing their cost down to \$1,235 plus airfare. TJC students had the opportunity to apply for partial scholarships, provided by the Student Service Fee Advisory Committee, at TJC, for the trip. Participants over the age of 70 and children under the age of 18 will receive a \$100 discount from the

original price. Participants can compare prices and order their plane tickets online or they may contact Dr. K. to get a travel agent's contact number.

"If the travel agent gives them a better price, they can buy the ticket from the travel agent," Dr. K. said.

There has been a waiting list for students who have recently decided to go. If there are enough students on the waiting list, then there will be a second bus available. Availability is based on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"I'm graduating this semester and this is like an exclamation point to the end of my time at TJC," Smith II said.

People who are interested may contact Dr. K. by phone at 903-510-2279 or by email at mkho@tjc.edu.

TRiO helps students adjust to college life

By Courtney Hodges
Staff Writer

The costs of college and the fear that comes with being a first generation college student can be too much for some to handle alone.

Students with academic needs, first generation college students, the economically disadvantaged and those with physical or learning disabilities are encouraged to check out what the TRiO services have to offer.

"TRiO is a program funded by the federal government to help at-risk college students," Linda Reeves, staff technician, said.

Established by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965, TRiO is a program funded by the federal government that was brought to TJC in 1997.

For the past 12 years, the TRiO services on campus have helped many students who met the criteria.

TRiO stands for touching lives, reaching out, increasing knowledge, and opening doors, which are the main purposes of the program.

This service expects students in the program to stay in college, graduate from a two-year school and/or graduate from a four-year university.

One main goal of TRiO is to help students "be successful here and to go to a senior college and be successful there," Reeves said.

The program only accepts 200 students per semester at TJC and is still accepting applications to fulfill the amount of students this semester.

Once a student has been accepted to the program, they remain in it until graduating from TJC. After transferring to another school, a student can re-apply for a service similar to TRiO.

Joseph Grier, career transfer advisor, who is beginning his first month with the TRiO services, said, "the program has a lot to offer."

Specific services include a computer lab with convenient hours and no print limit, tutoring, campus visits, cultural

TRiO SERVICES

The program accepts a maximum of 200 people per semester and is still accepting applications. The TRiO office is located on the 3rd floor of Rogers Student Center.

events, etiquette meals, skill workshops including transferring information, budgeting and scholarship help. Although these services are popular, the most popular service is loaning books to students.

Loaning books "is a really big help," TJC student Yvonne Gutierrez said.

With the cost of books increasing, this specific service can be helpful to students in financial need.

The TRiO services "really want students to be involved," Gutierrez said.

Students who benefit from this program are also required to help in the community. While TRiO is giving to these students, they are returning the generosity by completing at least 16 hours of community service per semester.

"Many students work with their churches or their children's schools," Reeves said.

Students also work with other organizations on campus such as Make-A-Wish foundation, student government, or the Center for Student Life and Involvement office.

Others volunteer for the Literacy Council, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and other non-profit organizations. TRiO also adopted a stretch of Highway 110 between Tyler and Whitehouse to keep them clean as well.

As a new staff member of TRiO, Grier "hopes to build trust" with students this semester.

Any interested student can get an application from the TRiO services office located on the 3rd floor of Rogers Student Center.

One year after tragic shooting, university's bonds still strong

By Megan Twohey
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—Sherman Yau welcomes the chance to talk about how a suicidal gunman shot him at Northern Illinois University last Valentine's Day. Sharing the experience, he says, has been essential to his healing.

It's even part of his Facebook profile, which reads: "I got shot, but no big deal. ... If you ever see me walking around, ask me for the full story."

The junior from Naperville, Ill., tells a story of courage, as does the university. But a year after five students were killed and 21 injured in one of the nation's worst campus massacres, NIU also finds itself significantly altered.

Demand for counseling has soared across campus, as many struggle with enduring pain. Kristie Bongiovanni, who once was academic adviser to the shooter, Steven Kazmierczak, suffers anger and sorrow every day.

At the same time, school spirit continues to rise. Students and alumni snap up anything with a Huskies logo — T-shirts, pins, bumper stickers. The "Forward Together Forward" rallying cry remains highly visible.

And despite the rocky economy, nearly \$1 million in private donations poured in for scholarships in the victims' names.

Moving forward can be difficult. It doesn't help that no changes have been made to Cole Hall, where Kazmierczak opened fire with a Remington shotgun and Glock 9 mm handgun before taking his own life. Millions of

renovation dollars promised by the state have not materialized, and the windowless, brick building remains shuttered.

Nationally, NIU's response to the massacre has become a case study in how colleges can best prepare for emergencies. After several reviews, the university made only slight tweaks to its campus-security and communication procedures. Its board of trustees made no policy changes.

"We kept looking for terrible things that happened that needed to be corrected, but we found none," Cherylyn Murer, the board's chair, said.

Some predictions never came true. The feared big exodus of students did not happen. Of 157 students who were in the geology class inexplicably targeted by Kazmierczak, only 19 did not return to campus this school year.

The university's overall enrollment dropped by nearly 900 students, but the school insists that was mostly a result of the economy, and some other colleges in Illinois experienced similar dips. Freshmen applications actually went up for this school year and are arriving in similar numbers for 2009-10.

John Peters, NIU's president, continues to draw praise for the caring and transparent way he handled the tragedy.

Since the shootings, NIU has hired private security for its dorms, introduced text messages as a way to communicate with the campus community, and trained professors to look out for signs of troubled students.

(Distributed by MCT)

Bailout Bonus

Stimulus expects to update energy system

By Renee Schoof
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Many of the jobs that the economic stimulus would create are generated by the parts of the plan that also are intended to help combat global warming and reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels.

The \$787.2 billion stimulus plan that President Barack Obama will sign Tuesday includes the nation's largest investment to date in cleaner energy.

More than \$80 billion in spending and tax cuts will go toward renewable domestic energy, a better grid to transmit electricity, energy research and programs to help reduce the use of fossil fuels, such as weatherizing homes and many federal buildings.

It's difficult to put precise numbers on how many new green jobs to expect. Government economists use a formula to figure out how a fiscal stimulus translates into jobs, but uncertainties remain.

Some of the results will depend on decisions that the Department of Energy and the states make about how to spend the money.

Even so, it's possible to look at the big picture and see how the environmental spending can create some jobs in the hard-hit manufacturing and construction sectors.

Dorothy Coleman, the vice president of tax and domestic economic policy for the National Association of Manufacturers, said she didn't have an estimate of the exact number of energy jobs the stimulus plan might produce but that the association expected the renewable energy provisions to help some of its members expand production and add workers.

The association supported incentives for wind and solar development for that reason, Coleman said.

Similarly, weatherizing

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Dropping prices

Estimated decline in prices for recycled materials:

Aug./Sept. 2008		Price today
\$140 a ton	Cardboard	\$20 a ton
\$120 a ton	Mixed paper	\$0-\$5 a ton
\$105 a ton	Newspaper	\$20 a ton
\$1 a pound	Beverage cans	50¢ a pound
22¢ a pound	Plastic materials	4¢ a pound

© 2009 MCT
Source: Industry and commodity price sheets
Graphic: Dave Eames, The Kansas City Star

Institute at the University of Massachusetts, said the green investment portion of the stimulus more broadly should yield about 1.7 million jobs, about 30 percent of them in construction.

"Of course, the jobs crisis is deepening quickly, so that much of an increase in spending for green investments and job creation is not big enough on its own to fight the countervailing recession forces," Pollin said.

Still, Pollin has said that investments in green technology create more than three times as many U.S. jobs as fossil fuel production because they generally require more workers and much of the money stays in the U.S. economy.

Daniel Weiss of the Center for American Progress, a liberal policy-research group in Washington, said that Obama's recovery plan would more than triple clean-energy investments in America.

The efficiency elements of the plan are useful because they put people to work quickly and put money into the pockets of people who pay heating or air-conditioning bills every month, and those savings keep adding up, year after year, said Nathan Hultman of the University of Maryland School of Public Policy.

"Arguably, it's better than any other rate of return you can get in the economy," he said.

The White House estimates that the average family would save \$350 per year on heating and air conditioning after weatherizing.

The spending on weatherization would create jobs quickly, Hultman said, because there's no need to invent anything; the materials and skills are readily available.

The bill sets aside \$5 billion to improve energy savings in more than 1 million modest-income homes and about \$4.5 billion to weatherize federal office buildings.

(Distributed by MCT)

TJC trivia

What is the oldest Organization on Campus?

What is the founding date of the Apache Belles?

What is the official name of the "Duck Pond?"

When did the tradition of beating the TJC War Drum for the week preceding homecoming first begin?

What was the name of the first president of TJC?

Las Mascaras, 1947, Six Geese Flying East, 1948, G.O. Clough

Source: Vaughn Library

Don't Freak Out

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Art club hosts canned food drive to help Tyler AIDS services

By Sarah Malik
A&E Editor

Every semester the Art Club at Tyler Junior College hosts a canned food drive to benefit Tyler AIDS Services.

Tyler AIDS Services is a non-profit organization that started in 1989 as an information and resource center for those living with HIV/AIDS.

"We want to educate Smith County that HIV/AIDS is actually

here," Shawanna Thompson, client services coordinator, said.

Tyler AIDS Services food drive chairwoman Charlene Steed contacted Derrick White, art instructor at TJC, to see if the art department would help them achieve their goal.

"The Art Club has provided food for clients that they (HIV/AIDS patients) never could have. Derrick White and the members of the Art Club are a blessing," Steed said.

According to White, three years

ago, UT Tyler, TJC and Texas College had a competition as to which college would bring the most cans. TJC ended up winning by 1,500 cans.

Last fall semester, the Art Club collected about 1,000 food items to give away to the Tyler AIDS Services.

The art club has been doing this for three years now.

"The canned food drive is my favorite part of the semester because it's always fun to help out the com-

munity and to see how many people can get involved," sophomore art major Emily Kangerga said.

To help get people involved, the Art Club members make sculptures out of the cans.

The hope is that if anyone walks by the art rooms, they will see the sculptures and it will motivate them to help.

"We like to go as tall as we can go," Kangerga said.

Doing the canned food drive also keeps with the three promises

of TJC; number three being community service. Doing the canned food drive can benefit the local communities and bring TJC students together.

"This is a wonderful community service because you receive a greater blessing than the receiver," Steed said.

For more information about donating go by Jenkins Hall art department lobby or call Tyler Aids Services at 903-592-0757. The can food drive ends March 27.

The greatest story ever retold, 'Cotton Patch Gospel'

By Krysten Hanger
Staff Writer



Photos by Krysten Hanger

PUTTING ON A SHOW Top, Allison Pharr takes a break from performing on the stage. Above, Jessica Bradbury and Austin Strong rehearse a scene from the "Cotton Patch Gospel."

Even with a rocky start "Cotton Patch Gospel", the newest TJC musical, moves forward to opening day.

The greatest story ever retold, "Cotton Patch Gospel" is about the Gospel according to Matthew and John with a little bit of a spin. Though the story of Christ is exactly the same, the setting is very different. In this version, Jesus lived his life in southern Atlanta, GA instead of Jerusalem and is completely modernized.

Dr. David Crawford, the director of the musical, gave the students a homework assignment. They had to read Matthew and John from the Bible to get prepared for this musical. Many replied back to him saying, "It's just like the musical" while Crawford points out that it, in fact, is the musical.

"Cotton Patch Gospel" stays true to the Gospel while changing the setting and by doing so through Jesus' activities that are now modernized. For instance, instead of Jesus walking everywhere he now has to take the bus.

"The truth remains the same no matter what, whether you have 'Godspell,' 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' or 'Cotton Patch Gospel,'" Crawford said. "The story is the same, how you present the story is different."

Thirteen students will be performing "Cotton Patch Gospel."

While almost all have more than two or three parts, the leads of the musical are Ryan Forester of Hallsville, who plays Jesus, and Clay McBride of Longview, who will portray Matthew.

"I was excited when I heard we were doing 'Cotton Patch Gospel' and got even more excited when I found out I received the part of Jesus," Forester said.

This is going to be Forester's second show at TJC. He was also in the production of "Little Shop of

"The truth remains the same no matter what, ... The story is the same, how you present the story is different."

— David Crawford
Director of "Cotton Patch Gospel"

Horrors."

Nathan Russell, the choir director describes the music for the show as Western meets Bluegrass meets Country.

"I love the music," Forester said. "It's a good mixture of both slow and upbeat songs. This generation is going to enjoy it."

There are going to be 19 songs total in "Cotton Patch Gospel," all of which will be played by five men with only five instruments which include the banjo, guitar, fiddle, bass and the mandolin.

"This show is appropriate for everybody, from children to the elderly," Crawford said. "It is good spirited and positive. At this time in our financial problems in society it's the type of thing we need, and leaves us with a good feeling, while at the same time being informative."

"Cotton Patch Gospel" is set to open Wednesday Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Wise Auditorium.

The show will be around two hours long and will also be playing Thursday and Friday at the same time. Tickets are \$5 each, and can be bought in advance or at the door.

THE PREMIER

Just the facts

"Cotton Patch Gospel" premieres Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Wise Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 each.

The Belles, the babes and the spring show 'From Now to Then'

By Sarah Hall
Staff Writer

On the morning of Jan. 31, the TJC Apache Belles and thirty young girls gathered together in a circle on the floor for a devotional and prayer.

These girls, between the ages of 4 and 12, joined the Belles to learn a dance routine to perform at the men's basketball game, which was later that afternoon.

After a short welcome from Ruth Flynn, director and choreographer of the Belles, the Belles and Belle Babes split into three groups to learn their own unique routines.

The routines included fun props such as floats and feather boas.

During this time, the Belles introduced stretching exercises and games in order to better acquaint themselves with the excited young girls.

"It's fun to work with the little girls because they are silly," Apache Belle Lauren Marquart said.

The Belles feel that this is a community outreach, as well as a time to encourage younger generations to continue in the path of dancing and one day become Belles.

"We want Belle Babes to bring young girls onto our campus, have them go through the program and then ultimately one day become part of our organization," Flynn said.

Although the turnout this spring was not as high as in the past Flynn did not seem too worried about it.

"Normally we have around 60 girls register, and today we only have 30. I think it's just the economy and how this is more of a luxury item to most parents," Flynn said.

Being a part of the Belle program is one of the many ways to be a part of the campus.

"We all just really love to dance, and it's a different level of dancing than when we were in high school," Marquart said.

Stephanie Lassanske, mother and Belle alumni, says she has her daughter in Belle Babes because she thinks it is a good way to incorporate loyalty, discipline and individuality into her daughter's life while exposing her to a healthy activity.

"I think now the girls are closer than when I was in Belles because they live together in Ornelas now," Lassanske said.

The Belle Babes is a fundraiser for the Belles program to help cover the cost of things such as costumes, equipment and the Spring Show.

The Spring Show is a production the Belles put on each year that incorporates a theme, music, skill, technique, choreography, costuming and tradition.

The theme this year is "From Here to There... From Now to Then" to reflect that this is the Belles 60th anniversary.

The Spring Show is April 2-4 and will be held in Wise Auditorium.

Tickets for the Grand Dress Rehearsal on April 2 are \$5 each and tickets are \$10 for Friday and Saturday evening performance on April 3 and 4.



Photo by Sarah Hall

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT The Belles and the babes are practicing for the spring show "From Now to Then" to reflect the Belles 60th anniversary. The show is April 2-4 and will be held in Wise Auditorium.

A special matinee performance will be Saturday, April 4 and tickets are \$5.

TJC faculty and students get in free, and there is free admission for senior citizens for the Saturday matinee.

For more information about the TJC Apache Belles, the Belle Babe program, or the Belle Spring Show, you may contact Ruth Flynn at 903-510-2244 or visit www.apachebelles.com.

DREAM

continued from page 1

The plan works successfully by receiving data from each school and using it to monitor progress. They break down the data by race, age and income level to better understand and close performance gaps so that they can be successful and continue their education.

TJC has looked at this Achieving The Dream program, and they are writing a proposal to get this grant for the school.

"We have identified that it is something that we want to apply for and get

here at TJC," Dr. Fernando Figueroa, dean of university studies, said.

According to Dr. Homer "Butch" Hayes, TJC provost, the proposal for the grant is due Feb. 27, and they should know within 30 days after the set due date whether or not TJC received the grant.

"At my previous institution we had the Achieving The Dream program, and it worked very, very well. It helps us to focus on evidence to see the students outcome and to help them achieve a higher learning," Hayes said.

APPLICATION

continued from page 1

to get in touch with," Adams said.

The transfer application process is easier for students who have a good academic history.

"The first thing we look at in particular is your GPA," Tara Wilkins, service representative for admissions at the University of North Texas, said. "Once we get past the GPA point, we look at activities, but to be honest, [anything other than GPA matters] very little."

GPA is generally agreed to be the most important factor for getting accepted into any university.

Jana Chancey, the executive director of enrollment management services, and Adams both said that other than good grades, well written essays, community service and being in contact with transfer universities help students feel better prepared for transfers.

Some universities require more than others. For instance, North Texas does not require essays and accepts a 2.5 GPA for transfers, but The University of Texas in Austin requires two admissions essays and usually accepts a GPA of no less than a 3.0.

HEIGHT

continued from page 5

her education. She has been scouted by the University of Alabama and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is not sure where she will be continuing her basketball career after TJC.

Stewart's dream school to play for would be Louisiana State University because she is from Baton Rouge and played high school varsity basketball all four years at Glen Oaks High School.

Kelly is focusing on recuperating

and staying healthy for the remainder of the regular season. In the 48-70 loss on Feb. 4th to Blynn college, Kelly sprained her previously injured ankle.

"Actually my ankle is okay," she said. "It takes me a little bit to get warmed up but when I'm warm, I'm back to the old Kelly."

Stewart is hoping to be returning to full strength soon to help her team in the upcoming Conference tournament and possibly Nationals after that.

Education benefit could move too slowly

By David Coffey
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' top education official said Tuesday that veterans who hope to attend college next fall should be able to use new increased GI benefits to attend even high-cost private colleges.

Officials of independent colleges and universities, under heavy budget pressure from endowment losses and the recession, sounded worried, however. Many said that the VA was moving too slowly for veterans to know how much financial help they would get before they decided which colleges to attend.

Increased benefits under the new so-called Yellow Ribbon program call for the VA and private colleges and universities to offer grants that cover the difference between the tuition and fees at a state's most expensive public university and the same costs at a private institution. The VA and the private school split the added costs 50-50.

Participation by private institutions is voluntary, and they alone determine the number of Yellow Ribbon scholars they will accept. To date, however, the VA hasn't told the institutions what the highest tuition in each state is, among other details.

Keith Wilson, the VA's director of education service, assured officials Tuesday at a Washington conference of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities that the VA is "moving as aggressively as possible" to fill in the financial blanks.

Nonetheless, Yellow Ribbon's list of participating universities and the aid they'll offer won't be made public until April 1, after most private college and university admissions decisions are made. Aid to qualified vets won't be available until Aug. 1, after many fall semester bills are due.

Late notices are likely to reduce participation, Wilson acknowledged, in part because colleges and universities won't know how much to budget for Yellow Ribbon scholars. Schools also are supposed to make grants to veterans



Photo by Tom Lasseter/KRT/MCT

YOUNG SOLDIERS Sgt. Josh Becherer, 24, of Ofallon, Illinois, during a recent 101st Airborne Division operation in Samarra, in February 2006.

erans on a first-come, first-served basis, which further handicaps those who need to know aid details before deciding which colleges or universities to attend.

James Wright, the president of Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H., urged members of the association to support the program, even if the number of veterans who receive aid is minimal this year.

"Limit the numbers if you're apprehensive, instead of limiting your support," Wright said.

The Yellow Ribbon program is one aspect of the broader Post-9/11 GI Bill, which takes effect Aug. 1. Unlike the old GI Bill, whose educational benefit expired 10 years after service, the new bill is good for 15 years after the soldier's last active service date.

Benefits can be passed to other members of the veteran's family after six to 10 years of service plus an additional four-year service commitment made after Aug. 1,

2009.

The new GI Bill includes a \$1,000 annual grant for books and a monthly stipend for room and board equal to the military's housing allowance.

Some school officials wondered Tuesday where the new aid will come from, and whether it would take money away from need-based scholarships.

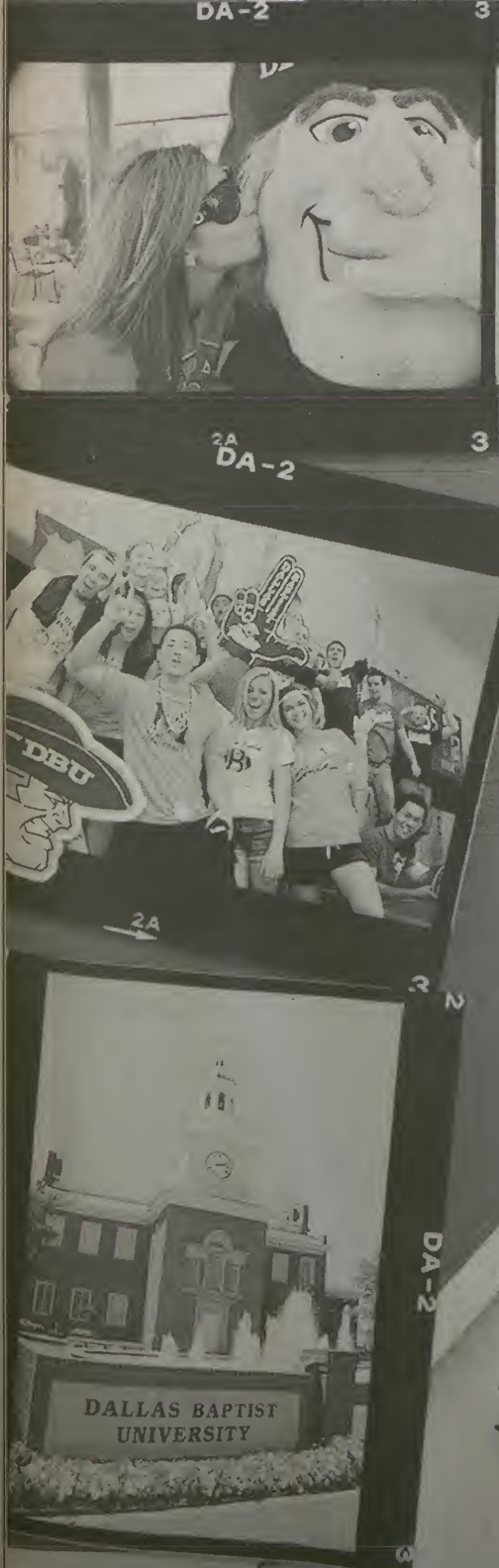
"We find ourselves in somewhat of a collision course as we're determining whether we can participate with those two conflicting policies," said Scott Fleming, an official at Georgetown University in Washington.

Veterans with three or more years of service after Sept. 10, 2001, are eligible for the grants.

The idea was to enable veterans, with help from private schools and the VA, to attend any private colleges or universities to which they could gain admission.

(Distributed by MCT)

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[variety]

Con artist faked way into Harvard

By Jennifer Sullivan
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — A Mountlake Terrace High School dropout who assumed the identities of at least three people to get into some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and fraudulently collect more than \$100,000 in student loans will serve about four years in a federal prison.

Esther Reed, 30, conned her way into Harvard and Columbia universities and earned a spot on the U.S. Secret Service's "eight most wanted" list by adopting the identities of several people after she left Washington state a decade ago. Among the identities that Reed assumed was that of Brooke Henson, a woman who vanished from a house party in Travelers Rest, S.C. in 1999.

In 2007, Reed was indicted on several federal charges, including aggravated identity theft. She was arrested a year ago near Chicago.

Lisa Henson, Brooke Henson's sister, who spoke at Reed's sentencing Wednesday in Greenville, S.C., asked the judge to impose the harshest sentence possible for dragging their family through the pain of hoping that Brooke had been found.

"I don't think she was sentenced long enough," Henson said by phone Thursday. "When I made my statement (in court) she wouldn't make eye contact with me."

Reed asked for mercy at

her sentencing, contending she sought a made-up world to escape a difficult family life.

"I was desperate to escape an environment I felt I could not survive," Reed said, speaking in a strong voice as she stood before the judge in handcuffs, leg shackles and red prison jumpsuit, her long, dark brown hair tied in a ponytail.

Reed pleaded guilty to mail and wire fraud, aggravated identity theft and student loan fraud in August. She was also facing a Social Security violation charge, but it was dropped when she agreed to plead guilty, said W. Walter Wilkins, U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

Reed will serve three years of supervised release after getting out of prison, Wilkins said. Reed requested that she serve her time in Pennsylvania so she could be close to a friend.

"I have been involved in this case for almost two years now. We took it on like we would any other identity theft," Wilkins said. "The scheme she was engaged in expanded from the East Coast the West Coast. She was very talented in assuming a third-party's identity."

Henson said Reed smiled and laughed in court on Wednesday, acting as if she had done nothing wrong.

"She sly like a fox. She doesn't want to face anybody who she has done wrong," Henson said.

During her nine years on

the run, Reed had claimed to be a European chess champion and dated cadets from the U.S. Military Academy, according to police and court documents. She got a passport, passed a high-school-equivalency test, obtained an Ohio identification card, took an SAT test in California and was accepted to the School of General Studies at Columbia University — all by using Henson's identity, according to grand-jury charging documents.

Reed disappeared from the Seattle area in 1999 after pleading guilty to possession of stolen property, including a book of her sister's checks. She disappeared before she could be sentenced.

Reed is no longer wanted in King County because her arrest warrant has expired.

In February 2008, police in suburban Chicago tracked Reed to a motel after spotting a car she had been known to be driving.

Though she initially provided an Iowa driver's license with another woman's name, Reed soon admitted her true identity.

Reed also had fictitious marriage certificates, a birth certificate in her legal name and a Washington state driver's license. She was arrested and turned over to Secret Service agents.

In addition to the prison sentence, Reed was also ordered to pay \$125,000 in restitution to several victims.

(Distributed by MCT)

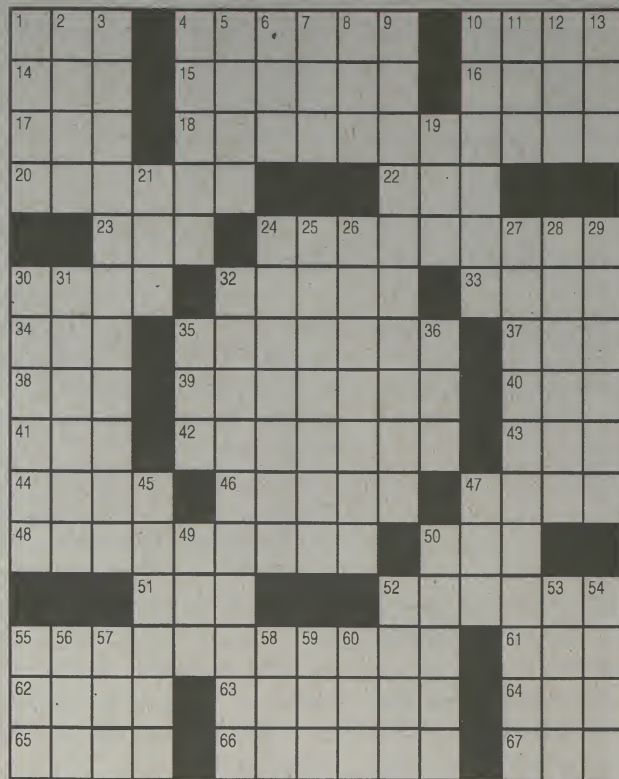
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 _-tac-toe
- 4 Finally!
- 10 Flounder cousin
- 14 Big fuss
- 15 Slight quake
- 16 Legal bargain
- 17 X
- 18 Weight room denizen
- 20 Off target
- 22 Block of time
- 23 Turncoat
- 24 Plant fungus
- 30 Say grace
- 32 University of Maine setting
- 33 Rabbit relative
- 34 RPM word
- 35 Formal letter
- 37 Edge of a crater
- 38 Adam's partner
- 39 Cigarette additive
- 40 Indy circuit
- 41 Bog
- 42 Destroyers
- 43 Lennon's widow
- 44 Expanse
- 46 Substandard urban housing
- 47 Mardi _
- 48 Linens
- 50 Rascal
- 51 POW possibly
- 52 Sophisticated
- 55 Put concisely
- 61 Crackers
- 62 Nabokov novel
- 63 Texas oranges
- 64 Denouement
- 65 Askew
- 66 Latest
- 67 Express vocally

DOWN

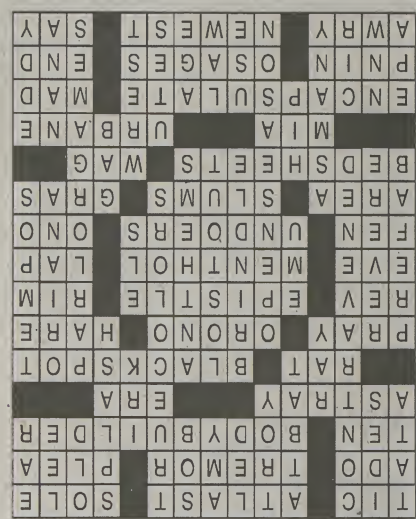
- 1 Bye-bye!
- 2 March middle
- 3 Denied the truth of
- 4 On deck followup
- 5 Ex-QB Aikman
- 6 Trailblazed
- 7 Writer Tan
- 8 Express sorrow
- 9 1991 John Cusack film
- 10 Result of a cannonball
- 11 Advanced in age
- 12 Marvin or Remick
- 13 Corn serving
- 19 Tick off
- 21 Sunbeam
- 24 Patchy colored
- 25 Missed the boat
- 26 National songs
- 27 After-dinner pastimes
- 28 Journalist Fallaci
- 29 Paces
- 30 Module classroom
- 31 Midnight rider of old
- 32 Hunting period
- 35 Outback bird
- 36 Ernie of the PGA
- 45 An equal amount



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2/20/09

Solutions



- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 47 Flap lips | 55 Air purifier letters? |
| 49 With it | 56 Compass dir. |
| 50 Force from | 57 Geom. shape |
| 52 Shoshones | 58 Put into practice |
| 53 Granny | 59 Regulation |
| 54 Form into a vortex | 60 Become mellow |

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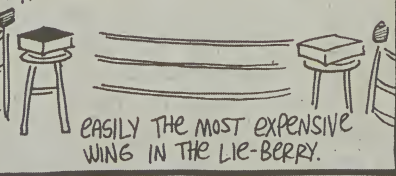
The 9-11 WING:



THE KATRINA WING: WATERLOGGED
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LIBRARY'S SMALLEST WING.



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Feb. 20 - Mar. 4

February

23

FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE- Including Spring
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24

4 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. STUDENT SENATE MEETING

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. BHM DINNER

25

LAST DAY TO DROP SPRING MINI-TERM I

NOON - 1 p.m. SPONSOR/ADVISOR'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. SPRING MUSICAL

26

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. SPRING MUSICAL

27

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. SPRING MUSICAL

28

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. STUDENT SENATE
HWY 69 CLEAN-UP

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. SPRING MUSICAL

March

2

FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE

5

FINAL EXAMS, SPRING MINI-TERM I

REGISTRATION, SPRING MINI-TERM II

6

FINAL EXAMS, SPRING MINI-TERM I

REGISTRATION, SPRING MINI-TERM II

SPRING MINI-TERM I ENDS

HAVE AN EVENT?

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TO TJCNEWS@TJC.EDU

Tyler Junior College has recognized 934 students named to the President's and Dean's lists for their academic excellence during the Fall 2008 semester. The President's List, composed of students who complete a minimum of 12 hours of college-level courses with a 4.0 grade-point average, includes 283 students. The Dean's List, composed of students who complete a minimum of 12 hours of college-level courses with a minimum 3.3 grade-point average, includes 651 students.

Tyler Pirtle, Shevelle Platt, Kristi
 Poindexter, Sabrina Polk, Nolan
 Pool, Tracy Price, Jarred Quinn
 Ashley Ragland, Lupita Ramirez
 Bridgette Ray, Bonnie Reed, Ryan
 Renteria, Roxana Reyes, Maria
 Fernanda Reyes, Marithe Reyes
 Brittney Roberts, Xavier Roberts
 William Robertson, Jessica Ro-
 driguez, Jose Rodriguez, Erika Ro-
 driguez, Johnathan Rogers, Joyla
 Rosenberg, Colton Rudd, Jayser
 Runnels, Demetrius Salas, Kimbe-
 rly Salas, Stephanie Samples, Dian-
 a Sanchez, Maricruz Sandoval, Te-
 resa Sayers, Bethany Schanfish,
 Hannah Schmoker, John Scrispich,
 Megan Seal, Baylen Sessions, Aus-
 tin Shafer, Jessyca Shanahan, Leigh-
 a Shelton, Christopher Shoemaker,
 Muna Shrestha, Ashley Sills, Alay-
 na Sloan, Marcella Smiles, Lauren
 Smith, Keri Smith, Dianne Spano,
 Ami Steich, Brittany Stilwell,
 Crystal Straley, Shuntina Taylor,
 Rachel Thomas, Elizabeth Thors-
 gard, Jessica Thrash, Edward Tim-
 mons, Christina Tindell, Steven
 Tomlin, Zachary Tunnell, Natalie
 Wade, Jessica Wahoviak, Michael
 Ware, Yaulaundria Warren, Kath-
 erine Watkins, Tracey Weesner,
 Justin Wells, Talitha White, Erin
 Whitehurst, Glenn Wiggins, Billy
 Williams, Francesca Williams,
 Shawn Williams, Marcy Williford,
 Amanda Wolff, Kam-Sum Wong,
 Brittany Worley, Abby Wright, Ja-
 rah Wright, William Wyatt, Nich-
 olas Wynn, Yasir Yahya, Dustin
 Yates, Aisyah Yuliani, Elizabeth
 Zavala
 UVALDE: Kelly Ritten-
 house
 VAN: Morgan Allen, Am-
 ber Bresee, Eraclio Coss, Jes-
 sica Dalme, Ashley Johnson, Edith
 Mize, Juan Sanchez
 WASKOM: Stormy Philpot
 WAUSAU: Lance Breeden
 WEATHERFORD: Aman-
 da Pierce, Colby Welsh
 WHITEHOUSE: Gray-
 son Arnold, Casey Booth, Diane
 Darnley, Miranda Davis, Kris-
 tina Davis, Nickolas Dawson, Sokhim
 Hardy, Kennedy Hunter, Eric
 Jones, Hope Lambert, Christopher
 Leonard, Jacob Lormand, Kayla
 Mason, Kimberly Ontiveros, Da-
 vid Pace, Spenser Penka, Elizabeth
 Peters, Codi Potter, Jeremy Priest,
 Bethany Saali, Hollie Schmidt,
 Jared Seigler, Clarissa Sellaroli,
 Christopher Sexton, Jordan Sims,
 Thurman Stanton, Mary Tarbut-
 ton, Cassi Taylor, Natalie White,
 Louie Williams, Abbi Wright
 WILLS POINT: Zachary
 Caldwell, Rachel Henry, Jenna
 Jontra, David Thornberry
 WINNIE: Whitney Collins,
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 WINNSBORO: Hanna
 Clothier, Sam Ramsey, Trevor
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GALVESTON

continued from page 1

the beach. At one point up to 16 feet of water covered the island.

"Most of the buildings just had flooding and no structural damage. Those buildings have been properly cleaned and cleared of mold that had formed," Gaskins said.

As one of the island's premier socializing and shopping hot spots, The Strand being open and ready for visitors is important. As of Feb. 8, many of the buildings still had wood over the windows, staircases missing and caution tape around banisters.

"The Strand is trying to open in stages. In two weeks, we expect for another wave of businesses to open for Mardi Gras, and then more to be open for spring break," Gaskins said.

The Mardi Gras celebration is set for Feb. 24.

Before Ike, Galveston had about 5,000 hotel rooms available but now is left with less than 2,000, and not that many more rooms may open before spring break begins. The FEMA deadline for financial aid of any kind is set for mid-March, and the island is hoping to have more hotels open by then.

Also, the businesses built on piers that were destroyed are rumored to be re-building, according to Gaskins. Those places include the Balinese Room, Murdock's Bathhouse and Hooters. The Flagship, a hotel that was also on a pier

and suffered significant damage, will be repaired and re-opened.

According to Gaskins, the sea wall is structurally sound and is part of the reason that Galveston was not washed away altogether. The sea wall did suffer from damage, though. In many places along the 10-mile stretch of concrete, the sidewalk is completely gone.

Railings on staircases are bent and barriers are in place around spots where the concrete is breaking. New sand has been put on the beaches, and the water around Galveston has been cleared of any possible debris as best as can be possibly done.

In the aftermath of Ike, the city also has begun a Beach Nourishment Program, which is meant to clean up the beach and help with any dirty sand.

Because of the Open Beaches Act, all of the beaches must be open, and the City of Galveston and the Corps of Engineers have been working to put sand on the areas of the beach where the sand was the most eroded.

To draw visitors back, the island is offering discounted rates on hotels and activities such as a free movie showing on The Strand, live music and entertainment and a Penguin encounter. According to Gaskins, any money that is made over the season will help to economically stimulate the city and its move toward recovery.

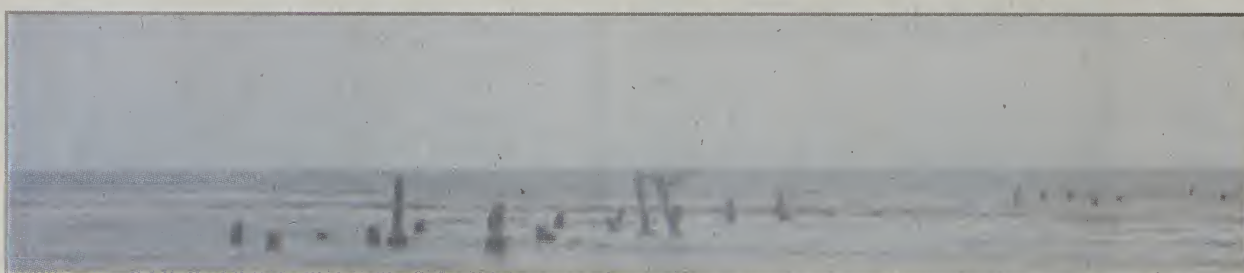


Photos by Ashley Summers

EVALUATING THE DAMAGE Reporters on Galveston's Strand observe a line of tape indicating the level to which Hurricane Ike flood waters rose.

Spring Breakdown

Galveston landmarks still shipwrecked with weeks to go before Spring Breakers head to the island this year.



THE COAST IS NOT CLEAR Top and bottom left, The Flagship Hotel is still in shambles after Hurricane Ike blew ashore on Sept. 13, 2008. Top middle, workers repair the roof of The Hotel Galvez. Top right, an oceanfront hotel is closed indefinitely. Bottom right, only stubs of what were once support beams remain to signify where the Balinese Room, a Galveston landmark nightclub, once stood on a pier extending over the Gulf.

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Ghost Tracker

Historical monument in East Texas: haunted?

By Dennis Gonsoulin
Multimedia Editor

Shrouded in the woods of Cherokee County stands an old stone obelisk, hidden from civilization. It is the Killough Monument, erected in memorial of the victims of the worst massacre by Native Americans in East Texas history. According to local legend, the grounds of the mass murder is also one of the most haunted places in East Texas.

Driving down the desolate roads through Larissa, Texas, which has become a ghost town since it was founded in the 1800s, a feeling of isolation hangs in the air.

The monument is tucked in the trees and guarded by a rusted chain-link gate. The towering cobblestone obelisk is surrounded by the graves of the family members of those killed in the massacre.

Built in the 1930s as a project of the Works Progress Administration, it is accompanied by a historical marker, commissioned in 1965, which tells the story of the fateful event.

In 1837, the Killough family of Talladega County, Ala. immigrated to East Texas and settled in the Cherokee County area. Fearing Native American attacks, the family moved to Nacogdoches, but re-

turned to Larissa to harvest their crops on a promise from the Indians that they would be safe. That promise was not kept, and on Oct. 5, 1838, the family was ambushed by a hostile band of Indians. Isaac Killough Sr. and 18 other extended relatives were either murdered or carried off into the forest never to be seen again.

Killough's wife Urcey, accompanied by a few others including a baby, managed to escape and were guided 40 miles south to Fort Lacy by a friendly Native American woman who spoke no English. It is through their tale that the details of the massacre are known.

Today the monument is open to the public for visitation between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., but possibly due to its isolated location it is not typically a crowded destination.

There are many rumors about the infamous site. Some of the more interesting local legends include the claim that there is buried gold in the woods around the cemetery.

But one of the more popular stories about the place is that it is haunted, and on a full moon, the ghost of a Native American chief on horseback will appear. Such stories have sparked the interest of paranormal investigation teams, including Tyler RIP, East Texas' own ghost hunting squad.

Tyler RIP conducted an investigation at the site, and while no hard evidence of paranormal activity was captured, the team's leader, Michelle Damron still believes in the possibility of a haunting at the monument.

"We didn't capture any conclusive evidence, but that place was definitely spooky. I got a really creepy feeling and that does not happen to me often," Damron said.

But perhaps the most frightening rumor about the location is that satanic cults gather in the woods at night

to worship and make sacrifices to the devil.

TJC sophomore Taylor Skolaut has experienced strange events late at night when visiting the monument after hours.

"We drove out there one time at around midnight. When we got up to the monument there were candles around the monument that were lit. No cars were there but there had to be people there who lit the candles," Skolaut said. "We thought they were watching us from the woods so we stayed in the car and left. When we drove out the gate, a truck came out of nowhere and tailed us all the way back to the highway."

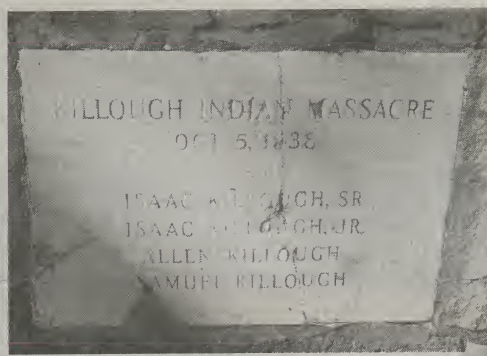
TJC sophomore Libby Harmon hasn't experienced anything similar first-hand, but has been warned about the strange happenings at the spot.

"Some people

I know went out there one time and when they drove in the gate, they didn't see anything out of the ordinary, but on their way out,

someone had strung up an alligator in the tree and it had been gutted. They took a picture of it and showed me. Whoever hung the alligator up did it while they were inside the gate," Harmon said.

While rumors run rampant about the site, it will be up to each visitor to decide for themselves what to believe about the renowned monument.



Source: TexasEscapes.com
Part one of ongoing Ghost Tracker series

IN MEMORIAM The monument is a stone obelisk built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration to memorialize the Killough family massacre. Photos by Dennis Gonsoulin

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